

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230362

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EEC, OVIP

SUBJECT:EC COMMISSIONER NATALI INTERESTED IN VISITING
WASHINGTON LATER THIS MONTH

REF: BRUSSELS 17032

1. DEPARTMENT WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE COMMISSIONER NATALI IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS EC ENLARGEMENT, DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS WITH APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS BUT SUGGESTS A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME IN EARLY 1979. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 6 IS FULL (HE WILL BE ACTING SECRETARY WHILE THE SECRETARY IS IN NEW YORK
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FOR THE UNGA). THIS WILL BE AN EXTREMELY BUSY PERIOD FOR CONGRESS PRIOR TO ITS OCTOBER RECESS AND NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.

2. IN VIEW OF ABOVE AND SINCE REFTTEL INDICATES NATALI'S OWN SCHEDULE WILL BE TIGHT AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR BECAUSE OF EC ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS THAT HE POSTPONE WASHINGTON VISIT UNTIL AFTER

BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR. THIS LATER TIMING WILL BE MORE
LIKELY TO INDUCE APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF THE NEW CONGRESS TO
FOCUS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JUNE 1979 DIRECT ELECTIONS TO
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND FOR COMMISSIONER NATALI TO
BRIEF APPROPRIATE LEVEL

DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE ENLARGEMENT
NEGOTIATIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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